

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



Office of the State Fire Marshal *State Fire Marshal Mary Corso*

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For Immediate Release

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“Hero” Acknowledged in Kennewick Assisted Living Facility Fire

Chief Ronal W. Serpas announced today that on March 20, 2003, an unheralded “hero” saved 41 residents of a state-licensed Kennewick assisted living facility from injury or death due to a nighttime fire.

One fire sprinkler head quickly extinguished the fire, which started in a storage room of the facility.

“When one compares the results of our fire with the recent tragic night time fire in a non-sprinklered nursing home in Connecticut, in which 16 residents died, it reinforces our firm belief that fire sprinklers do save lives and property,” states Kennewick Fire Marshal Mark Yaden.

As a result of the fast action of the sprinkler, fire, smoke, and water damage was limited to only \$2,000 and was confined to the storage room. No residents suffered any injuries and were all allowed to remain in their home.

“This is but yet another example of the ability of fire sprinklers to quickly extinguish fires and save lives and property. Fire sprinklers are instant firefighters; when installed and maintained properly, they provide 24/7 protection,” added State Fire Marshal Mary Corso.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State, including inspections of state-licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State’s firefighters, and collecting emergency response data. For additional information, you may visit our web page at www.wa.gov/wsp and then click on State Fire Marshal.

For more information on fire sprinklers, contact your local fire department or the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (360) 753-0400.

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